## Amendments to the Claims

Status of Claims:

Claims 1-37 are pending for examination.
Claims 1, 13, 20, 23-25 and 35 are amended.
Claim 22 is cancelled.
Claims 1, 13, 20, 25, 35 are in independent form.

1. (Currently Amended) A system for a storage device, comprising:

an access controller configured to control access requests to a storage device by metering access to data within a first predefined region within the storage device and by allowing unmetered access to data within a second predefined region within the storage device.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, where the system is embedded in one of, a database system, an operating system, and an application configured to process access requests to the storage device.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, where the system further includes allocation logic configured to determine a priority for data to be written to the storage device and causing the data to be stored within the first region or the second region based on the priority.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3 where the priority of the data includes a plurality of priority levels.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1 where the storage device includes one or more disk drives.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 where the storage device includes a disk and where the second region is defined closer to a perimeter of the disk than the first region.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6 where the first region and the second are defined by one or more logical block addresses.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, where the system is embedded in a file system configured to process data input and output requests to the storage device.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1 where the access requests include at least one of data input and data output requests.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, where the access controller is configured to meter access based on a threshold of access requests directed to the data within the first region.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1 further including one or more tables configured to define at least the data in the first region to be metered.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11 where the data in the one or more tables is configured to define one or more of, a file, an application, and a data location.

13. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

receiving access requests to a storage device; and

increasing response time for access requests to a first predefined region within the storage device by metering access requests to a second predefined region within the storage device.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 where the metering includes limiting a number of access requests to the second region based on a threshold number of the access requests.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 further including storing data to be metered within the storage device based on a priority level of the data.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13 further including determining, for a selected data, whether the selected data will be stored within the first region or the second region.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13 further including:
defining a plurality of regions within the storage device; and
assigning a metering threshold for selected regions of the plurality of regions.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 where the plurality of regions are defined by setting one or more addresses within the storage device.

19. (Original) The method of claim 13 further including:
monitoring a number of access requests to the second region; and
initiating the metering when the number of access requests reaches a threshold.

20. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
receiving I/O requests directed to a storage device;
determining a priority level of each of the I/O requests;
allowing I/O requests having a first priority level to be processed; and
limiting I/O requests having a second priority level,
where the priority level of an I/O request is determined based on a predefined location of data within the storage device associated with the I/O request.

21. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 20 where the limiting includes restricting the I/O requests having the second priority level based on a threshold number of I/O requests having the second priority level.

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim ~~22~~ 20 where data located adjacent a perimeter of the storage device receives the first priority level and where data located adjacent a hub of the storage device receives the second priority level.

24. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim ~~22~~ 20 where the location of the data is determined based on one or more predetermined addresses within the storage device.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing processor executable instructions operable to perform a method, the method comprising:

processing access requests to a storage device; and

metering access requests to a first predefined region within the storage device to maintain response time for access requests to a second predefined region within the storage device.

26. (Original) The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 25 where the storage device includes a disk drive.

27. (Original) The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 25 further including processor executable instructions operable to cause a processor to store data to the storage device based on a priority of the data, the data being stored in one of the first region and the second region.

28. (Original) The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 25 further including processor executable instructions operable to cause a processor to set a threshold value of access requests, where access requests to the first region are caused to be metered after the threshold value of access requests are processed.

29. (Original) The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 25 where the metering includes limiting a number of the access requests to the first region from being processed.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 25 where the processing includes determining to which region each of the access requests is directed.

31. (Original) The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 25 further including processor executable instructions operable to cause a processor to define at least the first region and the second region within the storage device.

32. (Original) The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 25 including means for allocating data to a selected region within the storage device.

33. (Original) The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 25 where the computer-readable medium is integrated with at least one of: a data base system, a file system, an operating system, and the storage device.

34. (Original) The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 25 further including access controller means for metering access requests to the first region.

35. (Currently Amended) A database system configured to process access requests to a storage device, the system comprising:

allocation logic configured to define a plurality of regions within the storage device based on information received from a user;

threshold logic configured to assign a metering threshold to one or more selected regions of the plurality of regions; and an access controller configured to process access requests to the storage device, the access controller including logic configured to meter access requests to a selected region of the plurality of regions once a metering threshold for the selected region is met.

36. (Original) The database system of claim 35 where the allocation logic is further configured to cause selected data to be placed within a selected region of the plurality of regions based on a frequency of access to the selected data.

37. (Original) The database system of claim 35 where the access controller includes means for metering access requests.